Visionary Essays: The Future of Spanish and Portuguese

We are pleased to announce that the Executive Council of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese approved the publication of a special issue of Hispania to celebrate the centennial of the Association’s founding (1917).

The Call for Abstracts for the special issue of Hispania has a deadline of January 15, 2015. The Editors of the centenary issue of the journal will exercise editorial discretion in selecting the most innovative and outstanding proposals for this special issue. Guest Editor, Frank Nuessel, University of Louisville, and Hispania Editor Sheri Spaine Long, UNC Charlotte, will curate the volume with the assistance of the Hispania Editorial Board and Hispania’s anonymous peer reviewers.

The special issue is intended to provide readers of the journal with overview essays that contain both a succinct historical perspective and a forward-thinking vision of the future of a particular segment of our field. Most of the issue will address matters that will be of importance as Hispania enters its second century of publication. To that end, consistent with Hispania’s broad scope, we are soliciting papers in a wide variety of areas identified in this separate call for abstracts. Abstracts can be written in English, Portuguese, or Spanish.

In the published volume, the final essays will be no longer than 3,500 words in length and one or two responses (750 words) to each essay will accompany the essays (or position papers) to provide multiple perspectives on a wide variety of topics of interest to the profession.

For the initial stage of development of the special centenary issue of Hispania, we invite the submission of abstracts (up to 300 words + select bibliography). We welcome proposals from emerging scholars as well as established academics, teachers, researchers, practitioners, and administrators of all levels/types of instruction. Two experts in the field will evaluate each abstract anonymously. Due to space limitations, it will not be possible to include all proposed topics.

Potential Topics and Themes for Development

The Editors are interested in visionary essays on topics relating to the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese language, literature, and culture. The Hispania Editorial Board developed the following questions and list of topics (in alphabetical order) for possible inclusion in the special centenary issue of Hispania. Proposed essays are not limited to the list below:

- How are Spanish and Portuguese truly unique international languages? What will it mean to be a Hispanist in the future?
- What will the future Spanish and Portuguese major look like?
- What is the long-term impact of the National Standards?
- What will the profession look like in 2068 (the sesquicentennial anniversary of the AATSP)?
- Is articulation among language levels and disparate programs possible?
- What are future directions for Spanish and Portuguese at all instructional levels (pre-K, K–12, community college, undergraduate, and graduate)?
- How will language teacher education change?
- Who will be the future teachers and professors of Spanish and Portuguese?
- Will assessment drive language instruction/curriculum in the future?
- Will the construct of a canon exist?
- What is the future role of the textbook and ancillary materials including on-line ones in basic language instruction?
- Will Spanish and Portuguese continue to be framed as heritage languages?
What will be the role of the professional association? How can we integrate languages and careers to meet diverse student needs? What combination of literary, linguistic, and cultural topics are likely to develop to meet students' needs and interests?

The themes for development include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Cinema Studies
- Community engagement
- Cultural Studies
- Culture
- Digital pedagogy and scholarship
- Ethnic studies (e.g., Chicano)
- Languages for specific purposes
- Latin American and Latino Studies
- Linguistics, language science, and pedagogy
- Literature of the Iberian Peninsula
- Minority perspectives in Spanish and Portuguese (e.g., Afro-Hispanic, Queer Studies)
- Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- Portuguese language, literature, and culture (including all areas where Portuguese is an official language or a significant language)
- Spanish in the United States
- Technology and media
- Translation and interpretation studies
- Transnational literature
- World literature

**Format**

The special centenary issue of *Hispania* will include 15–20 state-of-the-art essays. Because of space limitations, it will be necessary to adhere to a strict word limit of **3,500 words** for each final essay. These essays will then be circulated to one or two scholars in the field, who will provide a rejoinder not to exceed **750 words**.

**Procedures and Time Line for the Centenary Volume of Hispania**

1. Submit an abstract of **300 words** that includes a select bibliography, which will not count as part of the 300 words, no later than **January 15, 2015**.
2. Send the abstract as an email attachment to abstracts100@aatsp.org as a PDF.
3. Authors of abstracts that are selected to be developed into 3,500 word essays will be contacted no later than **March 30, 2015**.
4. Full-length essays will be due by **September 1, 2015**, at which time they will be sent out for peer review. The final version of the essays will be due on **January 15, 2016**. Colleagues with accepted essays will need to plan their schedules in order to meet this deadline.
5. Essays will be distributed to respondents on **January 30, 2016** with a due date of **April 1, 2016**.

We appreciate your interest in this special issue of *Hispania* and your efforts to distribute this call for abstracts to interested colleagues. Please feel free to contact the editors with any questions.

Sheri Spaine Long  
UNC Charlotte  
sheri.long@uncc.edu

Frank Nuessel  
University of Louisville  
frank.nuessel@louisville.edu